

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1: (canceled)

Claim 2: (canceled)

Claim 3: (canceled)

Claim 4: (canceled)

Claim 5: (canceled)

Claim 6: (amended) A method for preparing steel for chroming, the method comprising the steps of:

heating a strip of steel;

rolling the strip to a first predetermined thickness;

spraying the strip of steel with water;

immersing the strip in a descaling compound;

cleaning the strip;

drying the strip;

cold-rolling the strip into a blank using an electron beam textured roller to a second predetermined thickness; [and]

[coating] electroplating the blank with Nickel; [and chrome.] and coating the blank with Chromium.

Claim 7: (amended) The method for preparing steel for chroming defined in claim 6, wherein a tandem mill performs the step of rolling the strip to a first predetermined thickness.

Claim 8: (amended) The method for preparing steel for chroming as defined in claim 6, wherein the strips are heated to a temperature of approximately 2275 degrees Fahrenheit.

Claim 9: (amended) The method for preparing steel for chroming as defined in claim 6, wherein the strips are rolled to a nominal thickness of about 9 and ¼ inches.

Claim 10: (amended) The method for preparing steel for chroming as defined in claim 6 wherein [the strip is immersed] the step of immersing the strip includes immersing the strip in one of a sulphuric acid or a hydrochloric acid.

Claim 11: (original) The method for preparing steel for chroming as defined in claim 6 wherein the step of cold rolling results in a strip surface finish of approximately 0.7 to 1.2 micrometers with a nominal roughness of 0.9 micrometers.

Claim 12: (canceled)

Claim 13: (canceled)

Claim 14: (canceled)

Claim 15: (new) A method for preparing steel for chroming, the method comprising the steps of:

heating a strip of steel;

rolling the strip to a first predetermined thickness using an electron beam textured roller;

spraying the strip of steel with water;

immersing the strip in a descaling compound;

cleaning the strip;

drying the strip;

cold rolling the strip using an electron beam textured roller to a second predetermined thickness;

annealing the strip;

stamping the strip into a bumper;

electroplating the bumper with Nickel; and

coating the bumper with Chromium.